

**INDIANA'S STATE PLAN**

**FOR THE**

**TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES**

**BLOCK GRANT**

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**INDIANA'S STATE PLAN**  
**FOR THE**  
**TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)**  
**BLOCK GRANT**

(FOR THE PERIOD 10-01-05 THROUGH 12-31-07)

**I. BACKGROUND**

Indiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Plan is administered by the Family and Social Service Administration (FSSA). FSSA includes the Divisions of Family Resources, Mental Health, and Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services. It also includes the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning and the Divisions of Policy and Budget, Contract Management and Organizational Development.

The Division of Family Resources (DFR) has the lead responsibility for the delivery of TANF eligibility and employment services through local offices located in each of Indiana's ninety-two counties. Services are provided directly by the Division's staff and through outcome and performance based service contracts which are bid competitively.

Significant steps have already been taken to encourage and support local involvement in the planning, development and delivery of self-sufficiency services to low income families. Partnerships with community business leaders, social service providers, local elected officials, supportive services and employment services providers have achieved significant results.

Employment is recognized by many as a significant stabilizing factor in family health and well-being. The Family and Social Services Administration has experienced great success in assisting individuals to obtain employment. Staff recognize that job placement is only the first step on the path of financial independence. Multi-faceted and non-traditional job retention strategies are used to enhance the "work first" philosophy through job retention and an increase in job earnings. These efforts are assisted by strategies which increase earnings by addressing employment training and skills development, greater enforcement of child support obligations as well as increase access to effective support services.

**II. OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES**

Currently, FSSA is successful in utilizing existing resources to address the needs of families on assistance who could obtain employment with little support. The families remaining on assistance are reported to have more diverse and challenging needs. The issues facing these individuals have not been universally addressed within any existing service system. Although significant steps have been taken to foster the self-sufficiency of some low income families; FSSA recognizes that additional steps are now needed to

enhance its service system. The following are the guiding principles that will serve to bring about more responsive and effective services:

Families and communities differ greatly in the strengths and resources that are available to them. As such, FSSA believes that the local delivery of services is the most effective and efficient manner by which to meet the needs of families. Partnerships with state and local Chambers of Commerce, Workforce Investment Boards, faith communities and vocational training providers are encouraged and supported through training, funding and technical assistance.

1. FSSA will continue to work collaboratively with the Human Resources Investment Council, the Department of Workforce Development, Workforce Investment Boards as well as other statewide and local social service agencies to provide quality services and a continuum of services to support working families, focusing on increasing earnings and economic independence.

2. FSSA will continue to encourage and foster the integration of existing community resources to maximize the use of staff, time and financial resources available within a community.

The funds and services available through TANF block grants are to be used in a coordinated and collaborative manner focusing on improving the earning capabilities of families.

Employers and social service providers will continue to be included in the development of innovative interventions designed to enable people to prepare themselves for work and training as well as addressing the issues preventing them from attaining financial independence.

Financial support services are to be coordinated with those of Township Trustees, faith groups, charitable organizations and other entities within the community who provide general and emergency assistance in this state.

FSSA will coordinate with the Department of Child Services (DCS) so that child support enforcement services are to be included in all community plans for services to low income families.

3. FSSA will ensure that services provided by staff of the Division of Family Resources and through contracts and agreements are responsive to the needs of the children and families served by the program.

Staff and contractors of the Division of Family Resources respect and value the individuals and families who request and receive services.

All TANF families will participate in an assessment process to ensure that both the strengths and needs of the family are clearly identified for the purpose of developing appropriate and effective service plans not for the family but with the family. Services

are to be customized and flexible to address the unique needs of the family utilizing available resources within a community and funding under this plan.

Employment services must address job retention and wage enhancement for long term results. Service strategies will be responsive to the complex and varied needs of the individual, recognizing that some individuals will require extensive pre-employment job preparation services and while others may only need training and skill development.

The use of non-traditional services and the development of new and innovative service interventions are encouraged to meet the service and training needs of our diverse, fluid clientele.

Contracts are to be performance based with outcomes that lead to greater financial security for the individuals. Contracts will meet the requirements of the TANF Block Grant and will reflect the coordinated use of various funding and services in the most effective and efficient manner. Contracts will require both local collaboration and service system efficiency. Contracts will emphasize long-term job retention.

### **III. STATE PLAN REQUIREMENTS**

The following is a description of Indiana's plan for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program under Section 402 (a) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-193).

#### **Section 402 (a)(1) OUTLINE OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

##### **(A) General Provisions**

**(i)** Indiana will transfer a portion of the federal TANF Block Grant to supplement the Child Care Development Fund and/or Social Services Block Grant in addition to funding the following programs:

- ❖ Assisted Guardianship Program
- ❖ Children's CHOICE Program
- ❖ TANF Child Care Assistance
- ❖ Domestic Violence Prevention/Treatment
- ❖ Emergency Assistance
- ❖ Emergency Assistance for Hurricane Katrina Evacuees
- ❖ Early Intervention-First Steps

- ❖ Healthy Families (A child abuse prevention strategy)
- ❖ TANF and IMPACT

### **Assisted Guardianship Program**

Assisted Guardianship Program is a permanency option for children under the supervision of the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS). This option is considered only after the court has determined that reunification with the child's parents is no longer feasible, and adoption is not in the best interest of the child. The program provides an eligible child a monthly subsidy of \$512 for the child's general care while in the physical custody of his/her guardian.

#### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CHILD:**

Financial eligibility for the child is based upon 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. There is no asset test.

Non-financial eligibility requires the child to be 13 years of age or older. Consideration of a child under the age of 13 may occur if one of the following applies:

1. The child is part of a sibling group where at least one sibling is over the age of 13 and the goal for the children is to remain together;
2. The child is seriously disabled; or,
3. There are compelling reasons to make guardianship the preferred choice over other permanency options.

The child who is not a full-time student in secondary education will remain eligible for this assistance until age 18. A child who is a full-time student in secondary education can remain eligible until the child turns age 19.

Additionally, the child must be adjudicated a Child in Need of Services (CHINS) and under the supervision of Indiana Department of Child Services. The child is to be in an out-of-home placement and have been under a dispositional decree for a minimum of six (6) months. The child's placement must be with an eligible relative.

For a relative to be considered an eligible relative under the Assisted Guardianship Program, the relative must:

1. meet all licensing requirements to achieve an approval status;
2. be able to provide for the child's physical, mental, emotional, educational and medical needs without the DCS's continued involvement, except for the financial and/or medical subsidy;

3. be able and willing to advocate for the child's necessary medical, educational and psychological needs by accessing the appropriate services;
4. have established a nurturing, stable relationship with the child which includes successful placement of the child in their care for a minimum of six (6) months; and
5. have demonstrated the ability to determine the appropriate level of ongoing contact with the child's biological family based on the child's safety and best interest, or has demonstrated the willingness to comply with the visitation plan as ordered by the court.

### **Children's CHOICE Program**

The Community and Home Options to Institutional Care for the Elderly and the Disabled (CHOICE) Program provides the following services to disabled children age 18 and under who are living with their parent or eligible adult relative. To be eligible for TANF funded services the family's income must be under 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

The following services are provided by TANF funds:

1. Information & Assistance: The goal of these services is to insure access, linkage, and follow-up procedures to available Children's CHOICE benefits and services. Activities include: providing answers to questions about services; assisting an individual to receive a needed service; follow-up contacts to determine if needed service was obtained or additional services still needed.
2. Outreach: The goal of this service is to identify individuals eligible for Children's CHOICE assistance and inform them of available assistance. Activities include: identification of individuals in need of service; seeking out "hard-to-reach" individuals; providing information about available services and benefits; and informing individuals about access to services.
3. Family and Caregiver Education: Provides training and/or education to a parent or primary caregiver of a child receiving CHOICE services. Activities include: individual or group counseling, education or training to assist the caregiver in making decisions and solving problems relating to the caregiving role. Individual counseling is a non-medical intervention offered on a one-to-one basis for a specific need, e.g. assisting a developmental disabled parent to carry-out and learn specific parenting skills. Group counseling is a non-medical intervention offered to multiple individuals to gain information, skills, and support, e.g., grandparents raising their grandchildren.
4. Specialized Child Care: This service provides assistance in paying for specialized child care services to working parents/caregivers of a child receiving CHOICE services. Specialized Child Care may be used to pay for a formal child care worker if needed.

## **Child Care Assistance**

The child care needs for TANF recipients will be funded through use of both the Child Care Development and the TANF block grant. Assistance will be available to support the approved employment and training activities of the parent/caretaker who receives TANF assistance or who would receive TANF except for the imposition of a program sanction.

TANF funds also will be utilized for child care services for parents and relatives who are working and meet the income eligibility criteria of the Child Care Development Funds Program. Child care eligibility is capped at 127% of the federal poverty level.

TANF funds for child care will be blended with those of CCDF and accessed through the CCDF Voucher system. The funding source of child care services will be transparent to the families receiving child care subsidies.

## **Domestic Violence Prevention/Treatment**

The Division of Family Resource (DFR) staff receive information regarding the prevalence of domestic violence, effective identification of victims, referral to services and the impact of these conditions on compliance with eligibility requirements. Indiana's policies are similar to the federal TANF Domestic Violence option. The Division has been actively involved with a coalition of domestic violence advocates and service providers to better address the need of public assistance program participants who are victims of domestic violence.

Domestic violence and substance abuse, together with the typical problems associated with living in poverty, can create a condition that is very difficult for an individual or family to overcome. DFR will continue working the Division of Mental Health and Addictions (DMHA) to foster local initiatives to better identify and address these issues for those receiving TANF benefits. The DFR will implement a thorough assessment process with a customized service approach to address the issues facing each of the members of the TANF family. Services will be comprehensive and flexible to best address the diverse needs of a population with multiple barriers.

## **Emergency Assistance**

Emergency Assistance is provided to families with income up to 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines through the Indiana Department of Child Services. Eligibility for this program is based upon the existence of a substantiated complaint of child abuse or neglect or a court adjudication of Child in Need of Services. The goal of services is to maintain children in the home of a relative or to provide safe, temporary alternative living arrangements while the family is working toward re-unification.

The benefits provided under the program include shelter (including out-of-home placement), non-medical counseling, clothing, and homemaker services. Services are



authorized within 30 days of the identification of eligibility and need and can be authorized for a period not to exceed 120 days.

### **Emergency Assistance for Hurricane Katrina Evacuees**

Families and children who have come to Indiana from the counties/parishes of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama designated as disaster areas due to Hurricane Katrina may be eligible for TANF Emergency Assistance. The families must meet the TANF Cash Assistance eligibility requirements except for deprivation, child support enforcement and compliance with IMPACT. Benefits amounts will be determined using the TANF Cash Assistance calculations and will be available through the TANF EBT system. This program is intended to provide non-recurrent, short term (four months or less) benefits and solely targets families displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

### **Early Intervention/First Steps**

First Steps is Indiana's Part C Early Intervention Program for infants, toddlers and their families. It is a family centered, locally based, coordinated system that provides services to children (0-3<sup>rd</sup> birthday) who are developmentally vulnerable. Services are intended to prevent or minimize disabilities with the goal of maximizing the potential of these children so that they can function as contributing members of society.

In the spring of 2001, the Indiana Senate amended legislation to require the First Steps program to develop procedures to include a cost participation plan for the program. (IC 12-17-15-17) This legislation was passed by the General Assembly. The legislation specified that a cost participation plan would require co-payments to be charged to families accessing First Step services. This plan was implemented in spring 2003. The determination of the co-pay amount is based on the family's income, taking into consideration medical and other related expenses. The 2003 cost participation plan co-payment applied to families exceeding 350% of the federal poverty guidelines. In 2005, the General Assembly amended the cost participation plan by requiring the First Steps program to revise the cost participation schedule by increasing the co-payments amounts and by requiring families exceeding 250% of the federal poverty guidelines to make co-payments.

The program is also in the process of revising the administrative rule (470 IAC 3.1) to make eligibility changes, to reflect a regional planning group, clarify when third party payors may be billed for early intervention services, and making revisions to comply with new federal legislation.

## Healthy Families Indiana

The Healthy Families Program is a voluntary, multifaceted home visitation program designed to promote healthy families and healthy children administered by the Indiana Department of Child Services. Services are provided at no cost and include child development, access to health care, parent education, family incentives, staff training and community coordination/education. The program model includes screening, assessment and home visiting. Services can begin for eligible families either prior to or at the time of birth and can continue until the child is five years of age. This program is open to all Hoosier families regardless of income but TANF state and federal funds will only be used for families with incomes below 250% of the federal poverty level.

## TANF and IMPACT

TANF Block Grant and State funds are used for the cash assistance and IMPACT services provided to single parent families. Cash assistance and IMPACT services for two parent families are funded solely through state funds. Although this approach serves to create a separate state program for funding purposes, program participants will not experience a change in TANF program requirements nor will this funding structure be apparent to these families in any way.

### Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

#### Cash Assistance

Financial eligibility for cash assistance includes both an income and resource test. The family must qualify using applicable income and resource standards. The income standard for initial eligibility are listed below:

#### **Assistance Groups which Include Adults and Children**

<u># of Members</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	\$139.50
2	229.50
3	288.00
4	346.00
5	405.50
6	463.00
7	522.50
8	580.00

#### **Assistance Groups which Include only Children**

<u># of Members</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	\$139.50
2	198.00
3	256.50
4	315.00
5	373.50
6	432.00
7	490.50
8	549.00

The family remains eligible until their income exceeds 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. This extension of income eligibility allows for continued access to employment services.

On February 1, 2002, a policy change regarding the benefit calculation resulted in 25% of all earned and 100% of non-exempt unearned income being used in the budget calculation. This means 75% of earned income is disregarded in the benefit calculation.

The resource standard for initial eligibility is \$1000. Once determined eligible, the case is subject to a resource standard of \$1500.

*Indiana Manpower Placement and Comprehensive Training (IMPACT)  
Employment, Training and Support Services*

IMPACT has a strong focus on employment. It supports the utilization of training and education as a complement to work. IMPACT has demonstrated that it will lead to employment advancement or wage increase. FSSA staff believes a combined approach of employment with training or skills development will best prepare an individual for promotional opportunities and wage progression. DFR will actively encourage and support the development of training programs that are integrated into or delivered as part of the client's employment experience. Clients eligible for cash assistance will be given comprehensive personal and family strength and needs assessments, individualized service coordinated plans based upon the assessments, and referrals to appropriate service providers to overcome initial and on-going employment barriers.

Case management and service coordination will focus on job placement, complemented by supplemental education, training and skills development. Coordination with the Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services and the Department of Workforce Development will be emphasized for appropriate clients. Case management, training and supportive services are provided to the client at no cost. The following is a list of the supportive services available to an IMPACT participant under the TANF Program:

TYPE OF SERVICE	PAYMENT LIMITS	TIME LIMITS
Clothing	\$300	Per 12 month period
Transportation Expense	\$200 mo.	TANF-Personal vehicle at \$.15 per mile, other at actual cost; FS- \$.10 per mile or \$2.00 per day whichever is higher. **
Vehicle Repair and Maintenance	\$750	Per 12 month period. **

\*\*Also allowed to support the IMPACT participant's employment for 90 days following the loss of TANF benefits.

Domestic violence and substance abuse are factors that can impede any family's ability to become self-sufficient. The prevalence of these factors is believed to be great among low-income families. These issues can be extremely difficult to identify and although current policies permit exceptions and extensions to the state TANF time limit when a domestic violence situation prevents an individual from participating in employment or training, very few individuals seek these opportunities. DFR recognizes the complexity of these issues

and has worked to raise worker awareness of the problems and client awareness of the exemption and extension options.

### DFR Organizational Changes

DFR is exploring structural changes in how it can better provide services to the citizens of Indiana. DFR hired a consulting firm in August 2005 to review the eligibility process and to make recommendations as to how DFR can improve service. Possible recommendations include the complete restructuring of the eligibility determination process eliminating county offices, creating call and case processing centers, and the developing alternative means of applying for services via the internet or with the assistance of various community service providers. Additionally, the consulting firm is to determine what services within the eligibility determination process may be contracted to a private sector provider. The contractor's recommendations are expected by January 2006 with proposed organizational changes going into effect as early as July 2006.

### **SEPARATE STATE PROGRAMS**

In addition to the federal funded TANF programs, Indiana will utilize TANF maintenance of effort funds to support the following separate state programs for families who meet the definition of TANF eligible detailed within each section below. The expenditure of funds under these programs for services provided to TANF eligible families will be used to meet the maintenance of effort requirements under the TANF Program.

- ❖ Compulsive Gambling Prevention
- ❖ Part-time Student Grant Program
- ❖ Textbook Reimbursement Program
- ❖ Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- ❖ Individual Development Accounts (IDA )
- ❖ State Oil Overcharge Settlement Fund
- ❖ Early Intervention/First Steps Medical Services
- ❖ Two-Parent Families Cash Assistance Program

#### **Compulsive Gambling Prevention**

Since 2003, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) have provided services in the area of preventing, identifying and treating problem/compulsive gambling. DMHA has a contract to provide a toll free number (1-800-994-8448) for referral to treatment. The toll free number is printed on riverboat admission tickets; all state lottery tickets, and

advertised in other media. Callers to the hotline are referred to or if necessary, directly connected to the state endorsed problem gambling treatment provider in their area.

## **Prevention and Education**

In 2004, the DMHA expanded the resource services of the Indiana Prevention Resource Center (IPRC), the DMHA's contracted provider of substance abuse prevention technical assistance, to include resources for problem gambling prevention. The IPRC has been working to develop resources for schools and communities to address the issues of problem gambling and to collect data on the rates of various gambling behaviors in youth, adults and senior citizens. From this data, the state will develop a strategic plan that will address the problem gambling needs of communities.

## **Treatment**

In April 1996, the Division of Mental Health and Addictions held an informational meeting for the provider community to publicize preliminary decisions regarding the funding of gambling treatment services. It was decided that gambling treatment would become part of the Hoosier Assurance Plan. To be eligible for coverage under the Hoosier Assurance Plan, the individual must have an income at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. Gambling debts and payments on incurred gambling debts may be used in calculating income eligibility. Clinical assessment is accomplished via the Hoosier Assurance Plan Assessment Instrument (HAPI-A); the South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS) is also used on all persons presenting for services for a compulsive gambling problem. It was also decided that providers certified by the DMHA as managed care providers for substance abuse and serious mental illness could qualify for a compulsive gambling treatment endorsement. The state has nineteen endorsed providers offering services.

### **Part-time Student Grant Program**

A financial assistance program designed for students taking at least six (6) and no more than twelve (12) hours of class per semester. This program will provide financial assistance to students whose family's income is less than 250% of the federal poverty level. Eligible students must be either 1) a dependent student less than twenty-four (24) years of age who has a custodial parent or caretaker (even if the student lives apart from the parent or caretaker) or 2) a parent with a dependent child.

### **Textbook Reimbursement Program**

The State of Indiana provides payment for the elementary and secondary school textbook rental fee of families whose income is less than 185% of the federal poverty level. Benefits for this program are accessed through an application form processed by the school system. The application is a form, which facilitates access to the school meals programs administered through the United States Department of Agriculture.

### **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**

This tax credit is available to an individual who, in a year, has at least one qualified child. The income standards for tax year 2004 are as follows:

- Families with one child who earned less than \$30,338 in 2004 (or less than \$31,338 for married workers) may be eligible for a credit up to \$2,604.
- Families with two or more children who earned less than \$34,458 (or less than \$35,458 for married workers) may be eligible for a credit up to \$4,300.
- Workers without a qualifying child who earned less than \$11,490 in 2004 (or less than \$12,490 for married workers) may be eligible for a credit up to \$390.
- The EITC is 6% of the federal credit.

### **Individual Development Accounts (IDA)**

The IDA Program is designed to provide Hoosier households the opportunity to build assets, accumulate savings and learn personal finance skills so that they may pay for education, start or buy a business, or buy a home. The funds are administered by a community development corporation (CDC). Qualified individuals receive state funds to match their contributions to the IDA. The State match is three times the amount deposited by the individual up to \$900 per year. The state contribution for families with dependent children who receive public assistance or have incomes less than 150% of the federal poverty level will be counted towards MOE.

### **State Oil Overcharge Settlement Fund**

State expenditures from the state oil overcharge settlement fund, which are used to supplement the federal Low-Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) of families with dependent children, will be considered toward the State's maintenance of effort obligation under TANF. LIHEAP provides utility assistance benefits to maintain utility service for low-income households. Households must have income below 125% of the federal poverty level.

### **Early Intervention/First Steps Medical Services**

Medical services will be provided to TANF eligible children with income under 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, regardless of Medicaid eligibility. Funding will be used to pay for the costs of services that are not otherwise paid by Medicaid. Funding is blended with existing sources and will be transparent to the family, although the funding will be separately identifiable for the purposes of accountability.  
(See also page 9 of this plan)

## **Two-Parent Families Cash Assistance Program**

Refer to the 'TANF and IMPACT' section above.

### **(A) General Provisions-continued**

**(ii)** A parent or caretaker receiving assistance under the program will be required to engage in work once the State determines the parent or caretaker is ready to engage in work, or once the parent or caretaker has received assistance under the program for 24 months (whether or not consecutive), whichever is earlier.

**(iii)** Indiana will ensure that parents and caretakers receiving assistance under the program will engage in work activities in accordance with Section 407 of the Social Security Act, which establishes allowable work activities and participation rates.

**(iv)** The State will continue to restrict the use and disclosure of information about individuals and families receiving TANF assistance in accordance with state law, I.C.5-14-3-4 and the Internal Revenue Code, Sections 7213 A and 7431.

**(v)** Indiana continues to establish goals and take action to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, with special emphasis on teenage pregnancies, and establish numerical goals for reducing the out-of-wedlock birth ratio of the State. The numerical goals for each calendar year can be found at [www.childtrends.databank.org](http://www.childtrends.databank.org). The Indiana Department of Health is the lead agency in monitoring health outcomes and coordinating strategies to encourage abstinence and reduce teen pregnancy.

**(vi)** Indiana will conduct a program that provides education and training on the problem of teenage pregnancy prevention. Programs may be expanded in scope to include men. Many of the programs funded through Indiana's Fatherhood Initiative provide education on responsible sexual behavior and statutory rape. These programs are generally targeted to fathers but some include other men as well. There are also local initiatives through prosecutor's offices, faith communities, schools, hospitals, and health departments to provide education and training regarding the problem of teenage pregnancy and statutory rape.

### **(B) Special Provisions**

**(i)** Indiana does not intend to treat families moving into the state from another State differently than other families under the program.

**(ii)** Indiana intends to provide assistance under the program to the individuals who are not citizens of the United States to the degree permitted under federal law.

(iii) Indiana will continue to use objective criteria for the delivery of benefits and the determination of eligibility, as well as for fair and equitable treatment during a State administrative appeal process. The Hearings and Appeals Section of Family and Social Services Administration will serve to address the unresolved issues between the applicants and recipients of TANF and the entities that administer the assistance programs. This appeals process continues to serve the fair hearing requirements of the Food Stamp and Medicaid Programs as well.

(iv) The Governor of Indiana has opted out of the provision to require a parent or caretaker receiving assistance under the program who, after receiving such assistance for two (2) months is not exempt from work requirements and is not engaged in work, as determined under Section 407(c)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act,, to participate in community service employment, with minimum hours per week and tasks to be determined by the State.

## **Section 402(b) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF STATE PLAN SUMMARY**

Indiana will make this document available to the public through Access Indiana.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WITH PLAN**

The public has been continuously involved with the development of the plan through the use of focus groups, public hearings, taskforce participation of representative constituencies, rule promulgation and legislation. The following lists some specific activities that have occurred since the development of Indiana's AFDC waivers and the beginning of Welfare Reform in Indiana to the present.

The State Legislature enacted Public Law 46-1995 on May 5, 1995, which expanded the conditions of eligibility for cash assistance, as well as the penalties for non-compliance. The law required FSSA to request waivers where necessary to implement the provisions of the law. Approval of the revised terms and conditions was obtained on August 16, 1996. Indiana's waivers expired April 1, 2002 but we are continuing to operate using elements of the broad waiver program that do not conflict with TANF law.

A Taskforce comprised of members from a variety of interests convened in November 2002 to discuss the existing TANF program and program enhancements that were desired. The Taskforce served to provide direction and oversight to the development of the 2002 TANF state plan.

The plan was revised to include additional information regarding the programs in which TANF federal and MOE funds are being used. The revised plan was distributed to various interested parties and available on the FSSA web site for comments.

The current draft plan is a continuation of the 2002 state plan. However, with TANF authorization pending and potential changes in DFR's administration and county structure,



case processing procedures, and a possible overhaul of the IMPACT program, substantial plan amendments will be needed over the next two years. The draft plan will distributed to the state and local government officials, County Offices of the Division of Family Resources, Local Planning Councils, Township Trustee Association, Department of Workforce Development, Private Industry Councils, client advocates and service providers. The plan will be accessible at the FSSA web site for public comment from September 1, 2005 through October 31, 2005.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)** the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Block Grant began in 1996. TANF is a program that provides cash assistance to children under the age 18 who are deprived of financial support of a parent.

**Assistance Group** The family members who are considered for eligibility cash assistance or employment and training services. At a minimum this group includes a child under age 18 and his or her parents living with the child.

**Department of Workforce Development (DWD)** State agency that manages and implements employment programs for Hoosiers, unemployment insurance systems, and facilitates regional economic growth initiatives for Indiana.

**Human Resource Investment Council** Entity established under state law to review services and use of funds for federal employment and training programs funded by Job Partnership and Training Act, Wagner-Peyser Act, Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Act, the Adult Education Act, as well as the TANF and Food Stamp funded employment and training programs. The Council advises the Governor on methods of coordinating existing services and funds consistent with all applicable laws.

**Indiana Manpower Placement and Comprehensive Training (IMPACT)** Program is the employment and training program under which recipients of the Food Stamp and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Programs participate. It is also the name of the State's welfare reform demonstration project.

**Local Planning Council** Local or regional entity established under state law to develop an action plan to help TANF recipients become self-sufficient. Local Planning Councils are to work collaboratively with Private Industry Councils and other Workforce field offices to ensure coordination of services.

**Township Trustee** Officer of the township charged with the administration of general and emergency poor relief.

**Workforce Investment Boards** The entity established by federal law to oversee and develop workforce investments through local one-stop systems.